

**ADENOVIRUS E4 PROTEIN VARIANTS FOR  
VIRUS PRODUCTION**

**ABSTRACT**

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A method of packaging a recombinant viral vector is carried out by: (a) providing a packaging cell, the packaging cell containing and expressing a nucleic acid encoding a mutant adenovirus E4orf6 protein, the E4orf6 protein containing at least one mutation that renders the protein non-toxic to the host cell; (b) transfecting or infecting the packaging cell with a nucleic acid that encodes a recombinant viral vector (*e.g.*, an adenovirus vector or an adeno-associated virus vector), where the vector lacks a functional gene encoding E4orf6 protein; (c) culturing the transfected cells; and then (d) collecting packaged recombinant viral vector from the cultured cells. Nucleic acids, vectors and packaging cells used for carrying out the methods, as well as proteins utilized in the methods, are also described.

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